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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Letter dated 9 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued in Brussels on 8 July 1998 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union regarding Algeria.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Ernst **Sucharipa**
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Algeria

The European Union welcomes the establishment of a panel of eminent persons by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which will visit Algeria in the near future at the invitation of the Algerian Government.

The European Union welcomes this initiative and the readiness as well as the spirit of openness of the Algerian Government to fully support the work of this high-level mission. This is an important step for Algerian democracy. Greater transparency is part of the democratic process to which Algeria has already stated her commitment.

Having expressed its serious concern about the situation in Algeria on numerous occasions, the European Union hopes that the panel's mission will contribute to a better understanding of the complex situation and that it will respond to the need for information of the international community.

The European Union has repeatedly and unreservedly condemned the acts of terrorism which the Algerian people have suffered for so long. The European Union is committed to a political dialogue with Algeria and remains supportive of the Government's efforts to further consolidate democracy in the country and to protect its citizens from terrorism, within the rule of law and consistent with human rights.

The European Union therefore expresses its hope that the visit of the panel of eminent persons will be successful and will enhance cooperation between the Government and people of Algeria and the international community in the efforts to improve the situation in the country.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.